



April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012

Ms. Nancy Lewis  
Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY  
ADMINISTRATION  
Attn: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Re: Recall Notification  
2008 ~ 2009 Sprinter Mini-Bus equipped with Braun Century or Vista  
wheelchair lifts**

Dear Ms. Lewis:

On March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Braun Corporation notified Daimler Buses North Carolina LLC of a safety defect relating to motor vehicle safety that exists in certain 2008 ~ 2009 model year Sprinter mini buses equipped with Braun wheelchair lifts, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

Please note, this information is identical to 12E-002 furnished by the Braun Corporation on January 31, 2012. Furthermore, Braun will be undertaking the customer notification, the remedy in the field and the quarterly completion report submission.

573.6(c)(1)

**Name of manufacturer:** Daimler Buses North Carolina LLC

**Manufacturer's agent:** Bill Nicolle  
Daimler Buses North America  
350 Hazelhurst Road  
Mississauga, Ontario L5J 4T8  
Canada

573.6(c)(2)

**Identification of potentially affected vehicles:**

<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>VIN Range/Dates of Manufacture</u>
Sprinter Mini-bus	Certain 2008 model year	WD0PF445185 [redacted] / July 2008 up to
		WD0PF445085 [redacted] / Aug. 2010
Sprinter Mini-bus	Certain 2009 model year	WD0PF445195 [redacted] / Dec. 2009 up to
		WDYPF4AC295 [redacted] / Aug. 2010



**Description of the basis for the determination of the recall population:**

The recall population was based on manufacturing records. The VIN range reflects all possible vehicles equipped with affected Braun lifts that could potentially experience the problem.

573.6(c)(2)(iv)

**Identification of affected component:**

**Component:** Braun AA~DA Century & Vista Dual Parallel Arm wheelchair lifts  
**Country of Origin:** United States  
**Manufacturer:** Braun Corporation  
**Contact Name:** Rick Nelson, Director of Product Support  
**Address:** 631 W 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Winamac, IN. 46996  
**Telephone No. :** (574)946-6153 x 3272

573.6(c)(3)

**Total number of potentially affected Sprinter vehicles:** 42

573.6(c)(4)

**Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect:** Less than 0.5%

573.6(c)(5)

**Defect Description:**

The location of the defect is the outboard end of the wheelchair lift platform, specifically at the outer barrier. The defect manifests itself when the roll stop latches are no longer capable of restraining the roll stop to prevent passengers from defeating or riding over the roll stop. If this occurs when the platform is in an elevated position, the wheelchair/passenger may fall to the ground and sustain injury.

573.6(c)(6)

**Chronology** (as supplied by Braun and noted in 12E-002):

- Summer 2011** Braun received notice of a single complaint filed with NHTSA. This complaint prompted a NHTSA Preliminary Evaluation to assess the scope and severity of the alleged defect. Upon learning of the complaint, Braun objected to NHTSA's allegation of defect and acknowledged that it had earlier addressed roll stop latch/latch bracket damage issues via two Service Bulletins in April and June 2010. These Service Bulletins were created to address situations where damaged roll stop latches and latch brackets made roll stop securement questionable. After further consultations with NHTSA, Braun concluded it would conduct a voluntary recall in the interest of public safety. Braun has addressed 41 warranty claims involving damaged roll stops. Roll stop latches and roll stop latch brackets. These were repaired by shipping/installing repair parts pursuant to the aforementioned Service Bulletins. Since introduction of the subject lifts in November 2006, Braun has received notice of three claims alleging injury and one claim alleging injury/fatality.
- January 31, 2012** Braun notified NHTSA of the safety defect and 12E-0002 was assigned.
- March 27, 2012** Braun notified Daimler Buses North Carolina LLC (DBNC) of the defect.
- April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012** DBNC supplied Braun with 42 VIN's and affected customer names and addresses.

573.6(c)(8)(i)

**Program for remedying the defect:**

Braun will notify affected Sprinter customers of this defect and the potential safety consequences. Braun will install a new clevis pin and a replacement outer barrier bracket/latch assembly as provided in kit # 945-12E002 using the procedure as outlined within Braun Service Bulletin 37679.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

**The estimated date for preliminary notification to OE customers:** March 19, 2012 (by Braun)

**The estimated date to provide service bulletin:** February 2012

**The estimated date to begin sending notifications:** TDB by Braun

**The estimated date of completion of the notification:** TDB by Braun

573.6(c)(9)

**Representative copies of all notices, bulletins and other communications:**

A copy of the service bulletin and text of the final customer notification letter was submitted to your office by Braun.

573.6(c)(10)

**Proposed owner notification letter submission:**

The owner notification letter has been submitted to your office by Braun.

573.6(c)(11)

**Manufacturer's campaign number:**

Service Bulletin # 37679.

Sincerely,

Daimler Buses North America



Bill Nicolle  
Safety and Compliance Officer